

**Research at the Crossroads of Law and Education**

**A Taxonomy of Legal Education Research**

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# Research at the Crossroads of Law and Education

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A Taxonomy of Legal Education  
Research





# The doctrinal tradition of legal research

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- Socio-legal
- Comparativist
- Feminist
- Critical
- Indigenist
- Historiography
- Empirical

What is  
'true' legal  
research?

The One True Way



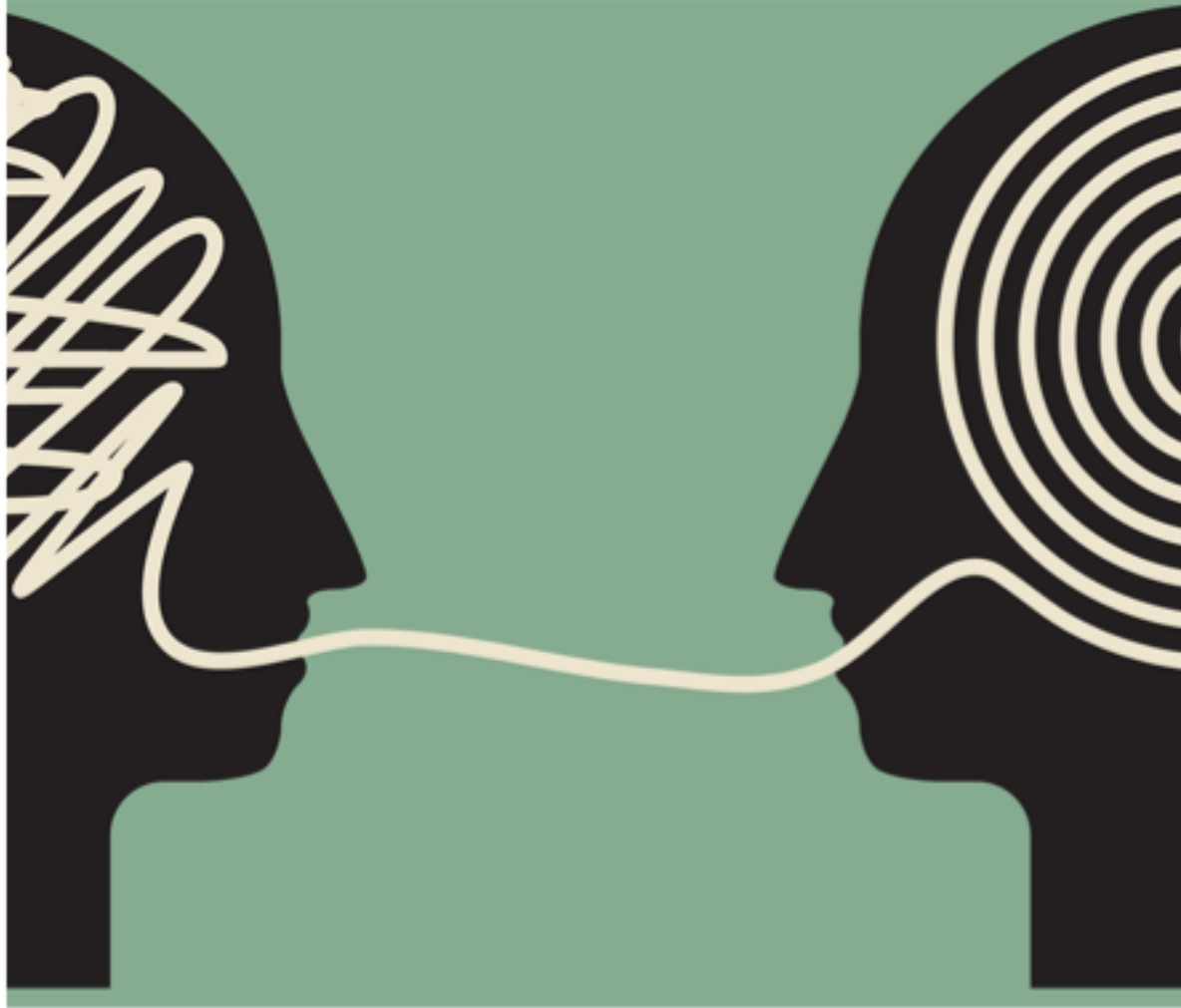




Legal *education* research is generally categorised outside legal research per se

Where research metrics count, categorization matters





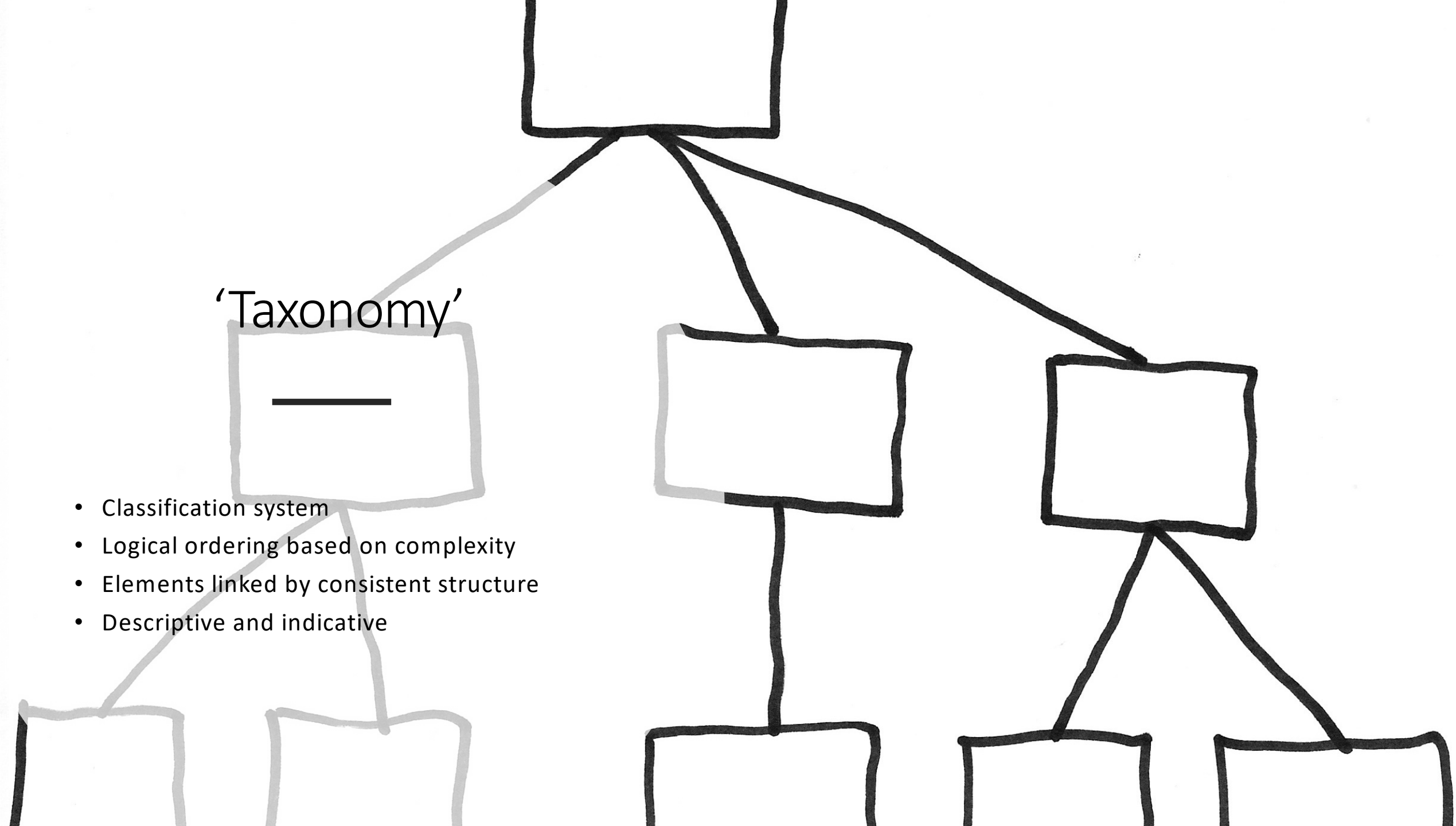
## **SoLE Project:**

Examine legal education literature in terms of a taxonomy to create a language of legal education research; reveal trends, gaps, and opportunities for new research

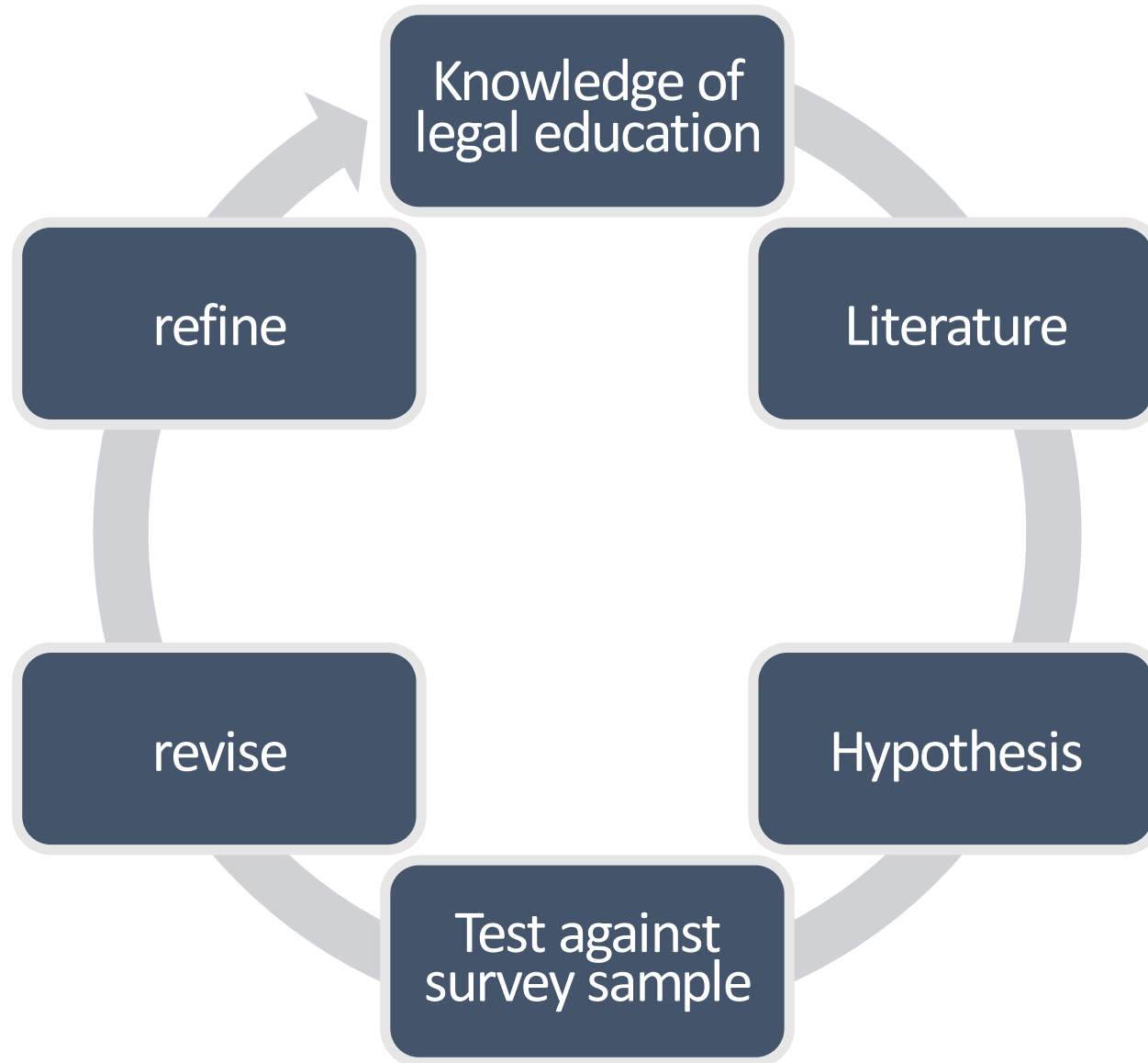


# 'Taxonomy'

- Classification system
- Logical ordering based on complexity
- Elements linked by consistent structure
- Descriptive and indicative

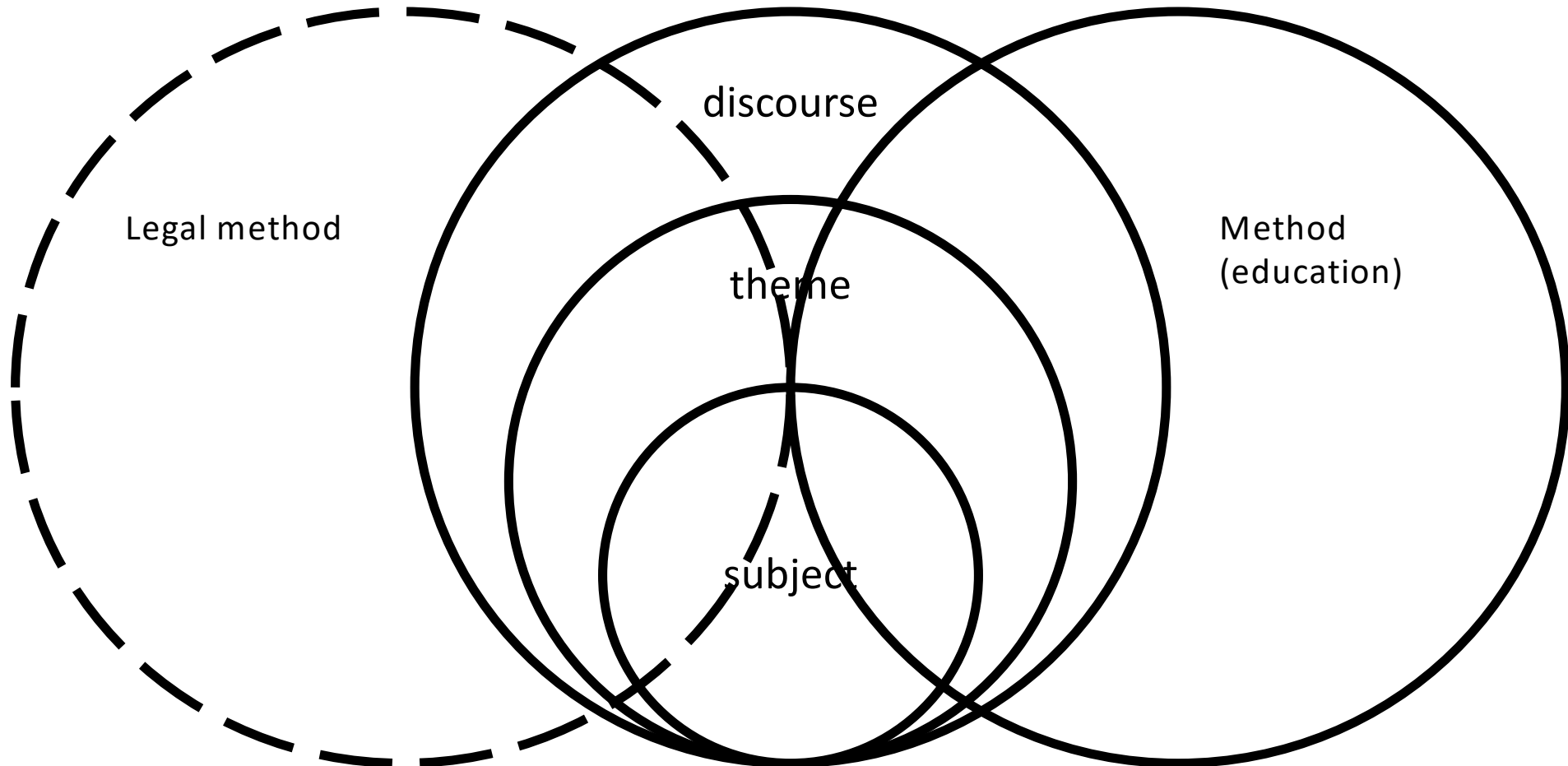


# Method



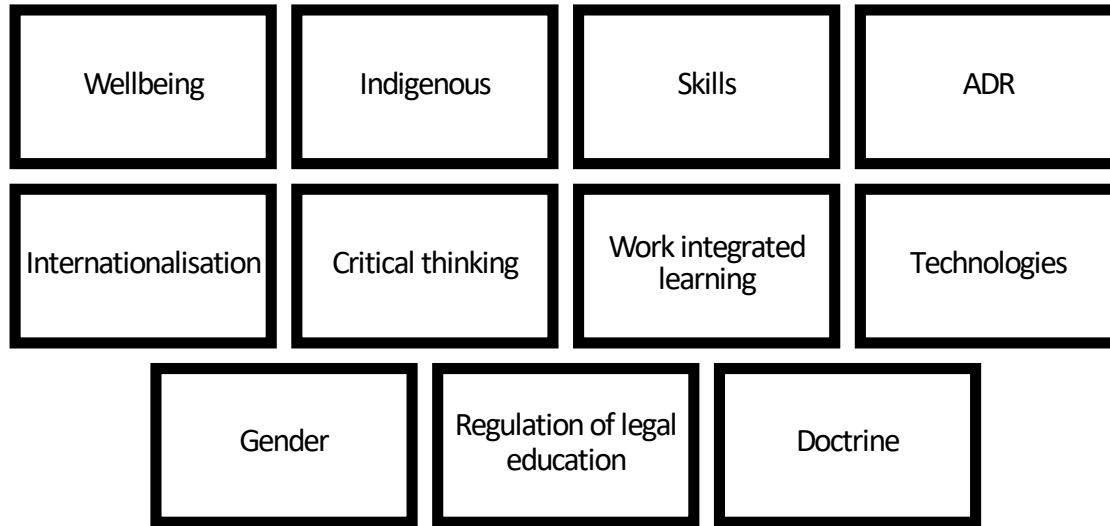
## Initial conceptualisation:

Not a linear taxonomy, but an interlocking one—a ‘system of systems; finding unifying principles running vertically [and horizontally] through and binding together the universe of [legal education scholarship]’ (Hill, p 189)

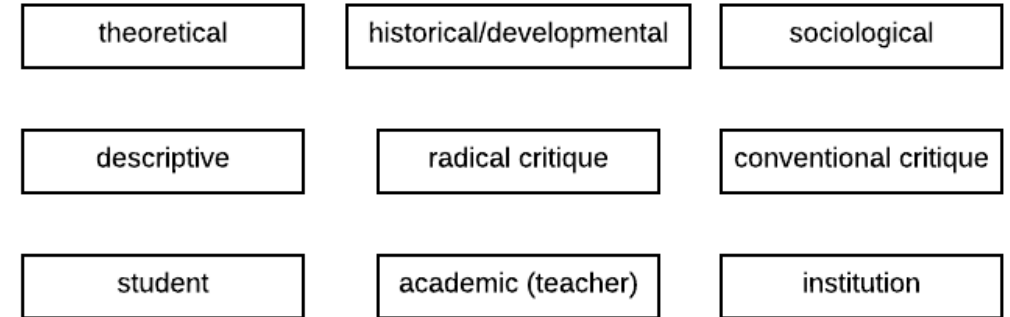




## Legal education themes



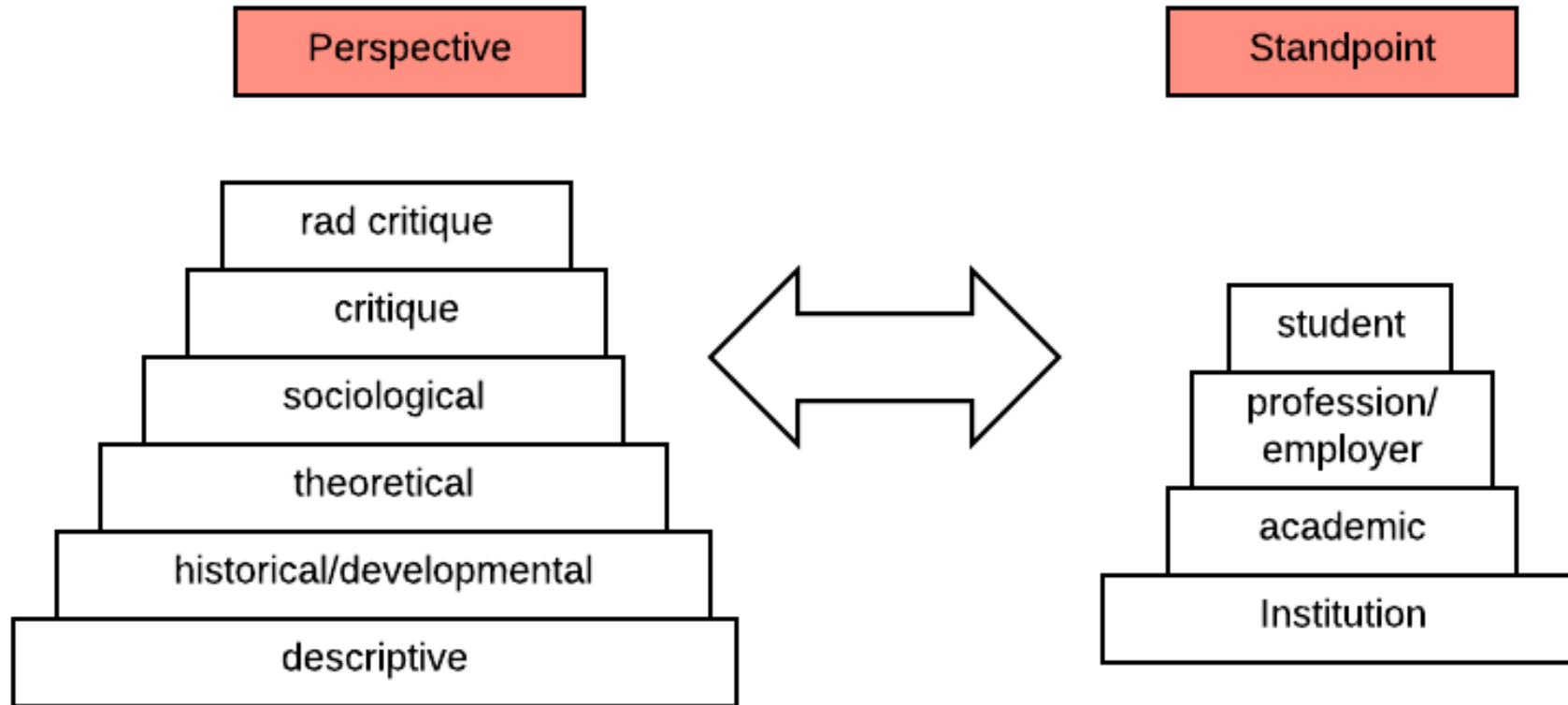
## Perspectives



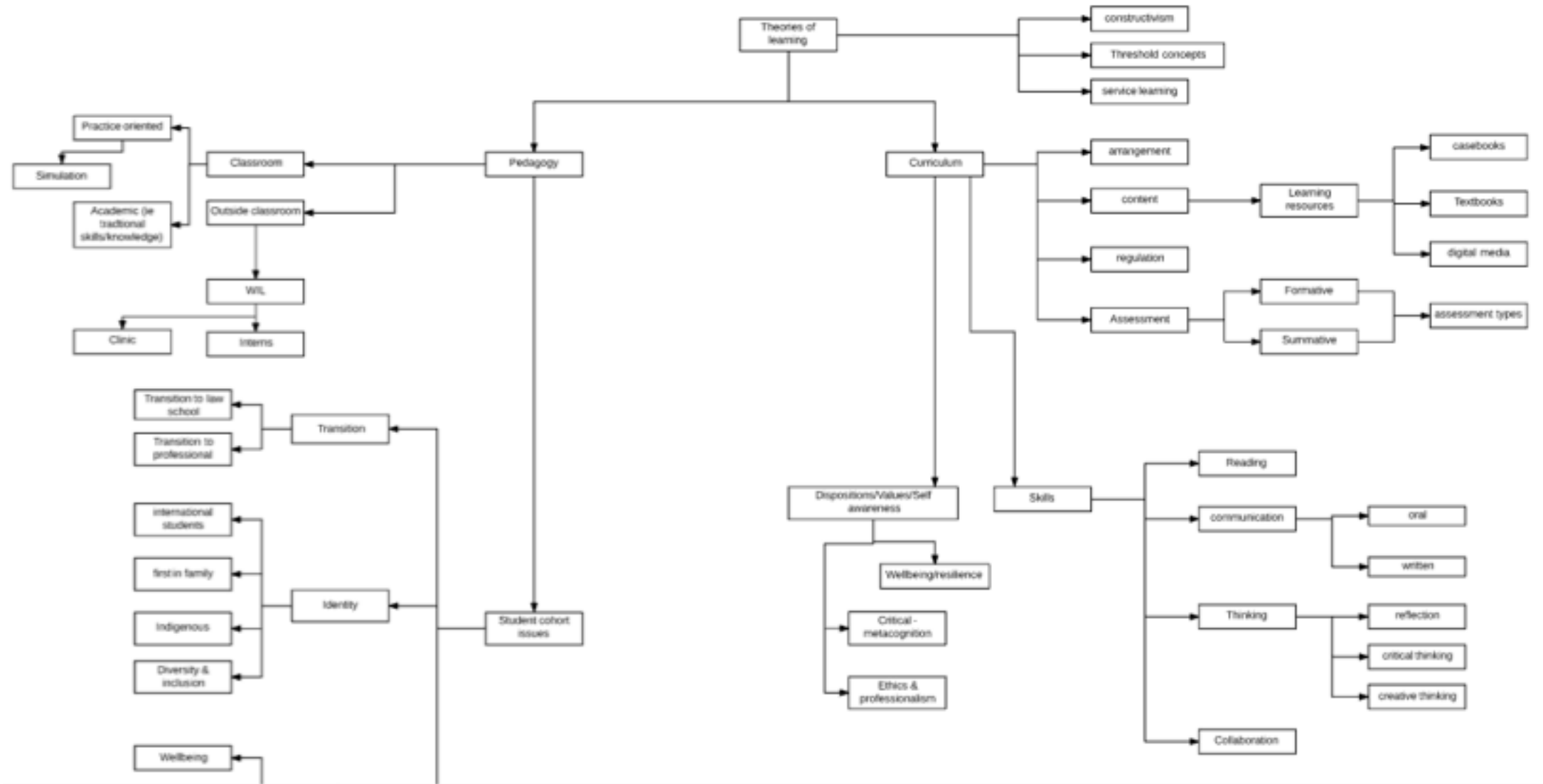
# Starting point

*But not yet clear connections to create a system...*

# Work in progress...



# Legal education themes





# Integration of taxonomic elements



# Applying the taxonomy

Standpoint		Intellectual perspective		Research method	
Academic	10	Descriptive	4	Documentary / theoretical	7
Institution	2	Historical /developmental	3	Case study	4
Student	1	Critique	3	Ethnographic	1
Profession	0	Theoretical	2	Meta-analysis	0
		Radical critique	1	Action research	0
		Sociological	0		

# Legal education themes (lowest level): utility?

Theme	Occurrence	Theme	Occurrence
Critical thinking	3	Dispositions/values	1
Assessment	2	Simulation	1
Written communication	2	Digital media	1
Curriculum arrangement	2	Wellbeing	1
Critical/metacognition	2	Regulation	1
Thinking	2	Case books	1
Reading	2	International students	1
Negotiation	1	Student cohort issues (unspecified)	1





Legal education themes  
(highest level): utility?

- Curriculum: 13
- Pedagogy: 3
- Theories of learning: 0



Limits,  
challenges, next  
steps

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